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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Information on the 1st Mecz Regt Cranienburg of the Mechanized

Division Potsdam.

615959

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 8 February 1954

REFERENCES

3

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. The 1st Mecz Regt, also referred to as 1st Mecz Kommando, is stationed in Installation II on Bernauer Strasse, Oranienburg, a former SS-Kaserne, and was subordinate to the Mechanized Bereitschaft Potsdam of the East German Ministry of the Interior. The organization and strength of the 1st Mecz Regiment is as follows:

	Officers	NCOs	EM
Headquarters	17		
Headquarters personnel	6	10	10
Headquarters company	7	12	80
S-1 Company	5	10	60
S-5 Company	5	20	40
Technical Company	10	20	30
SB (Heavy Artillery) Battalion	12	30	70
1st Battalion	12	20	70
2d Battalion	34	78	386
3d Battalion	12	20	70
C-Battalion	8	10	70
School	5	10	50

The strength of the 2d Bn allegedly corresponds to the authorized strength of this battalion. 1

2. Officers assigned to this unit included:

Lieutenant Colonel Klepsch (fmu), Co, assigned to the unit since September 1953;
 Captain Ludwig (fmu), Deputy Co and political officer;
 Captain Berger (fmu), chief of staff;
 Captain Uhlig (fmu), CO, C-Bn;
 Senior Lieutenant Diete (fmu), school commandant;
 Senior Lieutenant Kroll (fmu), commander of the technical company;
 Lieutenant Legler (fmu), Co, S-1 Co, previously at the Panzerschule in Friemen Wald.

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3. The 1st Mecz Regt was equipped as follows:

1st through 3d Co of the C-Battalion : 10 T-34/85 tanks to each company;
 4th Co of the C-Battalion: 8 guns on model SU-76 self-propelled mounts;
 SB Battalion : 5 x152-mm field howitzers, 8x122-mm field howitzers
 and 6x76-mm model M-43 infantry guns;
 S-5 Co : 6x12.7-mm model DZHK AT guns mounted on trucks;
 4th Co : 18x82-mm mortars;
 5th Co : 16x45-mm model M-42 AT guns.

Motor vehicles available to the 1st Mecz Regt included 8x3-axle model M-3 armored personnel carriers; 4 model BA-64 armored scout cars, assigned to the S-1 Co, 1st Platoon; 60 model H-3-A trucks [redacted] 20 x 2-axle model ZIS trucks; 3 tank trucks, one with trailer; 3 repair shop trucks, assigned to the technical company, 1 truck to each platoon; 2 model Phaenomen ambulances, assigned to the headquarters company; 1 model Phaenomen radio truck, assigned to the headquarters company; 4 BMW and EHW command cars [redacted] 8 BMW motorcycles with a piston displacement of 350 cubic cm, assigned to the S-1 Co, 2d and 3d Platoon; 3 sidecar motorcycles of Soviet type, assigned to the S-1 Co and the C-Bn. About mid-September 1953, Soviet drivers delivered 80 model M-3 armored personnel carriers. Of these, 8 vehicles remained with the regiment while the others were transferred to other installations. In September 1953, about 60 sidecar motorcycles were delivered by Soviet drivers. Of these, 57 were forwarded to other units.³ About 10 to 15 former German army field kitchens on pneumatic tires and about 40 gas masks for training purposes were also available to the regiment.

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4. About 15 percent of the personnel belonged to the 1936 class, 50 percent to the 1935 through 1933 classes, 30 percent to the 1952 through 1928 classes, while 5 percent belonged to the 1927 through 1925 classes. About 50 percent of the personnel supported the SED regime, while 50 percent were followers. Soviet Lieutenant Colonel Gochkanov (fnu) who only wore a Soviet uniform with red collar patches was attached to the regiment as an advisor. A Soviet political officer was expected to arrive.

5. The training year was completed on 31 October 1953. The training status at the mechanized regiment was rated as fair. Exercises at company, battalion, regimental and division levels were scheduled to be held in the 1953/1954 training year. The training was to be completed by a fall maneuver. The fact that the training status reached by the unit on 31 October was only rated as fair was attributed to two employments in Berlin and the discontinuation of training activities after the transfer to Oranienburg.

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1. [redacted] Comment. During the reported period, the regiment had an actual strength of about 1,300 men, i.e. slightly more than 50 percent of the war time strength of a Soviet mechanized regiment. The balance may be accounted for by the many vacancies at the 1st and 3d Bns.

2. [redacted] Comment. The weapons equipment greatly deviates from the standard equipment. It may be assumed that the model SU-76 guns as well as the 152-mm and 122-mm howitzers will not remain with the regiment. These weapons possibly date back from the time prior to the re-organization of the cadre

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unit in Oranienburg (previously in Grossenhain) into a mechanized regiment. It is surprising that these weapons should not have been turned over to other KVP units where they are authorized equipment.

3. [redacted] Comment. The armored personnel carriers and sidecar motorcycles were delivered from the USSR.

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